



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Sevier River Resource
150 EAST 900 NORTH
RICHFIELD, UTAH 84701



IN REPLY REFER TO

4510
(U-056)

STAFF REPORT

TITLE: T & E Plant Clarification - Gypsum Quarrying, UT-056-2P

DATE: February 12, 1990

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In March of 1981, various gypsum mining claims were field surveyed for threatened, endangered and sensitive plants. Several species of sensitive plants were found on the claims and identified in the T & E clearance dated March 26, 1981 (T & E Plant Discussion and Clearance, Plan of Operations for Gypsum Quarrying, UT-056-2P).

One of the plants that was found on the claims was identified as Townsendia aprica (Officially listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act; 50 FR 33737; August 21, 1985). However, in 1987, populations of Townsendia that were thought to be T. aprica and that occurred on the gypsiferous Arapien Shale formation, were identified as Townsendia jonesii var. lutea, by Stanley L. Welsh, BYU taxonomist and major author of "A Utah Flora".

Therefore, this report updates the T & E clearance dated March 26, 1981 and clarifies the fact that the Townsendia that occurs on the gypsum mining claims associated with application UT-056-2P, is Townsendia jonesii var. lutea. At the present time this plant is not recognized on any sensitive plant list. However, the fact that it is presently known from only Sevier and Piute counties, could mean future protection under sensitive or even threatened/endangered status. Also, threat from gypsum mining activity could make it a possible future T & E candidate.

Larry R. Greenwood